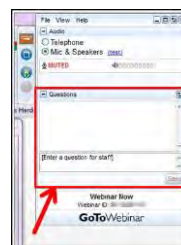
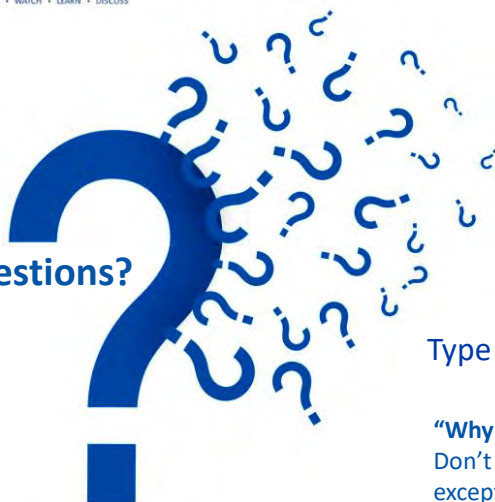




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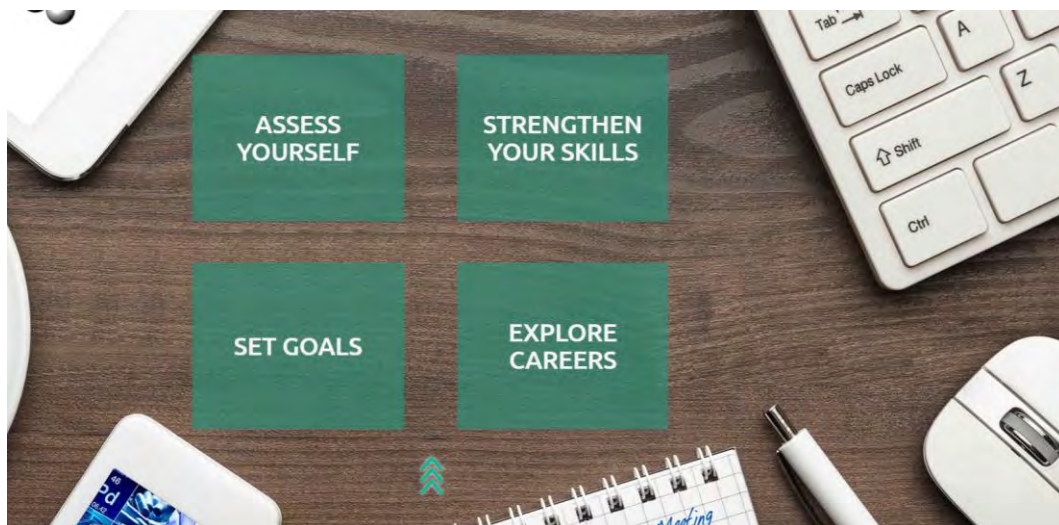


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How to Detect and Target Dormant CANCER CELLS Surviving Microtubule-Targeting Agents

THIS ACS WEBINAR WILL BEGIN SHORTLY...

13



How to Detect and Target Dormant Cancer Cells Surviving Microtubule-Targeting Agents



Patrick Sexton

Professor of Pharmacology and National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Senior Principal Research Fellow, Monash University, and Editor-in-Chief, ACS Pharmacology & Translational Science

Lenka Munoz

Associate Professor, Faculty of Medicine and Health, The University of Sydney

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How To Detect and Target Dormant Cancer Cells Surviving Microtubule-Targeting Agents

Presenter: Lenka Munoz, University of Sydney

Moderator: Patrick Sexton, Monash University

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What You Will Learn



- A background to the tubulin code and its impacts on the efficacy of microtubule-targeting agents
- The importance of using orthogonal inhibitors and per-division growth rate inhibition assays in cancer drug discovery
- How to detect and target dormant cancer cells

Webinar Outline

- Microtubules, tubulin code and microtubule-targeting agents
- From kinase inhibitors to microtubule-targeting agents
- Tubulin code, microtubule-targeting agents and glioblastoma
- Per-division growth rate inhibition assays in cancer drug discovery
- Cancer dormancy and drug-tolerant persister cells

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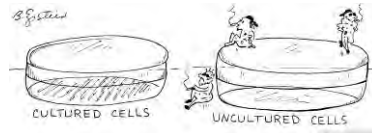
Audience Survey Question

ANSWER THE QUESTION ON BLUE SCREEN IN ONE MOMENT



Have you worked with cells and/or analyzed cell-based data of drugs?

- Never worked with cells and not familiar with cell-based data
- Never worked with cells but familiar with cell-based data
- Worked with cells and familiar with analyzing cell-based data

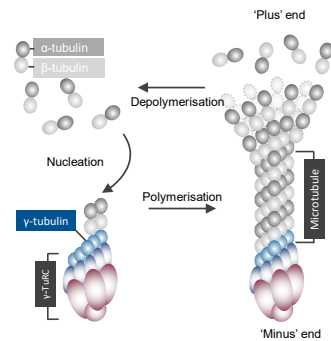
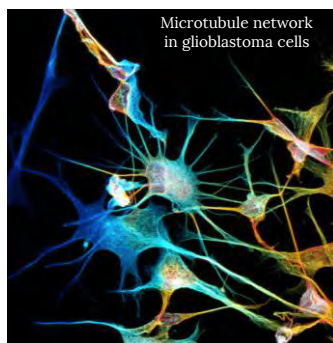


** If your answer differs greatly from the choices above tell us in the chat!*

Microtubules



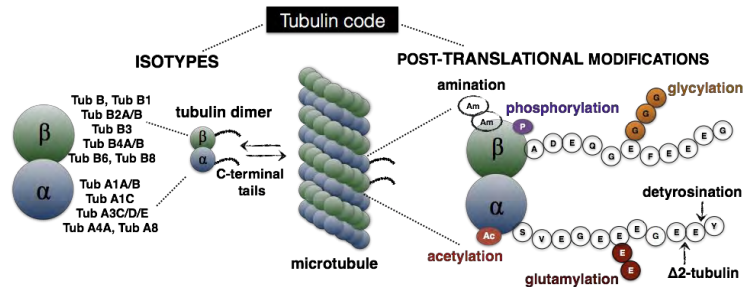
- Largest filamentous components of the eukaryotic cytoskeleton
- Essential for every cell as they control cell shape, division, motility and differentiation
- Dynamically assembled from heterodimers of evolutionary highly conserved α - and β -tubulin
- Microtubules function determined by interaction with microtubule-associated proteins and/or the tubulin code



Tubulin Code



- Combination of differential expression of eight α - and nine β -tubulin genes (isotypes) and different post-translational modifications
- Impact of the tubulin code on microtubules function emerging, e.g.
 - Tubulin isotypes determine microtubule dynamics (Mol Biol Cell 2017, **28**: 3564)
 - Detyrosination of α -tubulin guides chromosomes to cell equator during mitosis (Science 2015, **348**: 799)
 - Glutamylation controls activity of microtubule severing enzymes spastin and katanin (Cell 2016, **164**: 911)
 - Phosphorylation of β -tubulin inhibits tubulin polymerization and affects dendrite morphology (Neuron 2016, **90**: 551)
- Less is known about the impact of the tubulin code on microtubule-targeting agents

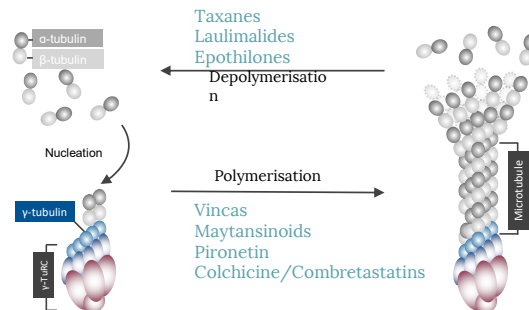


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Microtubule-Targeting Agents



- Because microtubules are essential for cell division (*and cancer is primarily a hyper-proliferative disease*), microtubule-targeting agents are among the most important cancer drugs
- FDA-approved: Vincristine (1963), Vinblastine (1965), Paclitaxel (1992), Vinorelbine (1994), Docetaxel (1996), Ixabepilone (2007), Cabazitaxel (2010), Eribulin (2010)
- Non-targeted chemotherapeutics that disrupt microtubule dynamics, thereby affecting cell viability
- 6 binding sites: taxane, laulimalide/peloruside, vinca, maytansine, pironetin and colchicine

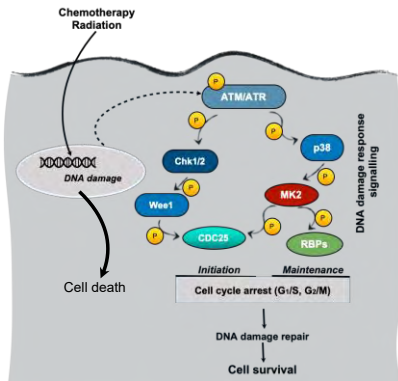


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From Kinases to Microtubules

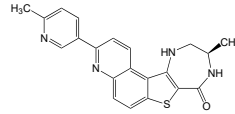


Q: Will MK2 inhibition improve chemotherapy efficacy in glioblastoma?

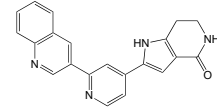


Cancer Cell 2007, 11: 175
Mol Cell 2010, 40: 34
Cancer Cell 2015, 28: 623

ATP-competitive inhibitors

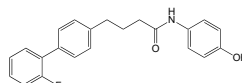


PF3644022 (Pfizer)
JPET 2010, 333: 797
IC₅₀ = 5.2 nM

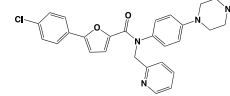


MK2 inhibitor III (Pfizer)
J Med Chem 2007, 50: 2647
IC₅₀ = 8.5 nM

Non ATP-competitive inhibitors



CMPD1 (Boehringer Ingelheim)
Biochemistry 2004, 43: 11658
K_i = 330 nM



MK2 inhibitor IV (Merck)
ACS Med Chem Lett 2011, 2: 632
IC₅₀ = 110 nM

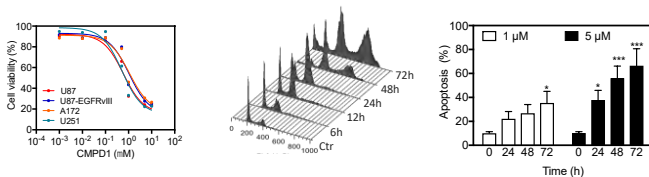
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From Kinases to Microtubules

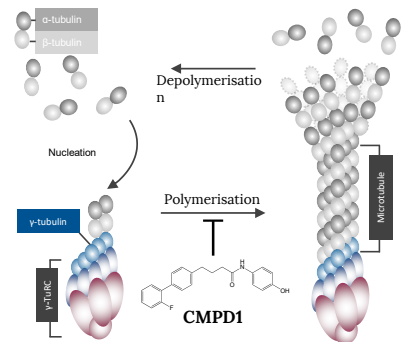
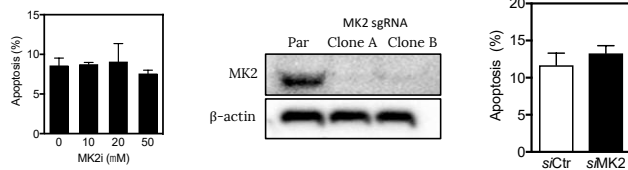


- Drug-target validation studies identified microtubules as the primary target of CMPD1
- Apoptotic efficacy of CMPD1 results from inhibiting tubulin polymerization; **not** from MK2 inhibition

CMPD1: induced mitotic arrest and apoptosis



MK2 siRNA / sgRNA / other MK2 inhibitors: no apoptosis



Cell Death Discov 2015, 1: 15028
Biochem Pharmacol 2015, 98: 587
ACS Med Chem Lett 2017, 8: 395

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Audience Survey Question

ANSWER THE QUESTION ON BLUE SCREEN IN ONE MOMENT



In your drug discovery research, what is your approach to off-targets in relation to the targeted protein family?

- We consider off-targets only within the targeted protein family
- We consider off-targets within and outside of the targeted protein family
- We rarely consider off-targets in our research
- Not applicable

** If your answer differs greatly from the choices above tell us in the chat!*

Non-kinase targets of kinase inhibitors



- Tubulin
 - cMet inhibitor tivantinib; CK1 inhibitor IC261; CDK4 inhibitor BTP, PLK inhibitor rigosertib
- Bromodomains
 - CDK inhibitor dinaciclib; PLK1 inhibitors BI2536 and BI6727; JAK2 inhibitor fedratinib; p38 MAPK inhibitors SB202190 and SB203580
- NQO2 enzyme is inhibited by ABL inhibitors imatinib and nilotinib
- IDOs enzymes are targets of RIPK1 inhibitor necrostatin
- Multi-kinase inhibitor sorafenib targets cystine-glutamate antiporter system in ferroptosis

Comprehensive drug-target validation includes (full guidelines in Nat Rev Drug Discov 2017, 16: 424)

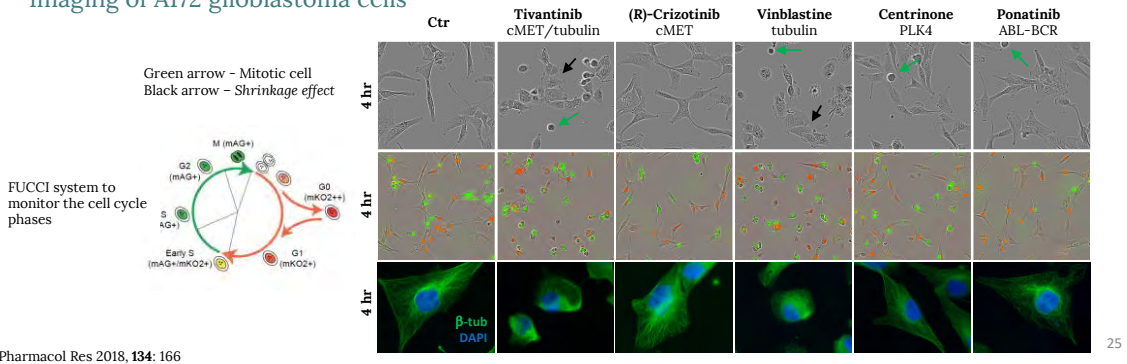
- Structurally unrelated inhibitors and structurally related but inactive analogs
- Genetic methods of target perturbation (knock-down, knock-out, drug-resistant mutation of the target)
- Correlation of activity/efficacy across orthogonal assays using cancer cell lines of varying genotypes

Cell morphology and cancer drugs



- Microtubules are essential for cell morphology
- Drugs targeting tubulin changed cell morphology within 0.5 – 4 hr => 'shrinkage effect'
- A172 cell data confirmed with 17 cancer drugs in 7 cancer cell lines (incl. cancer stem cells)
- Early changes in cell morphology indicate tubulin as a target of kinase inhibitors

Imaging of A172 glioblastoma cells



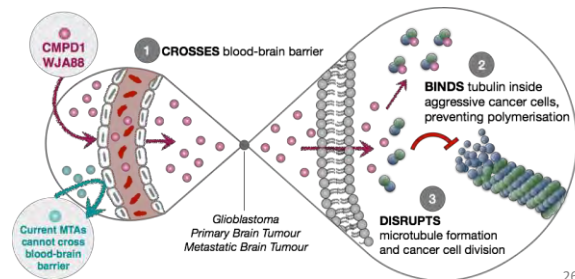
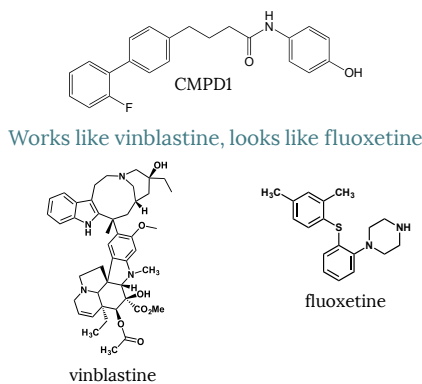
Microtubule-Targeting Agents & Brain Cancer



- Blood-brain barrier: major hurdle in neuro-oncology drug discovery
- CNS drugs: smaller, less polar and not a P-gp substrate
- Clinical MTAs: natural products (or analogs) with incompatible properties for BBB penetration

Drug Property	Kinase Inh. (n = 34) ^a	CNS drugs (n = 119) ^b	MTA (n = 8)
cLog P	4.2	2.8	2.7
TPSA	91	45	174
HBD	2	1	3
MW	483	305	768

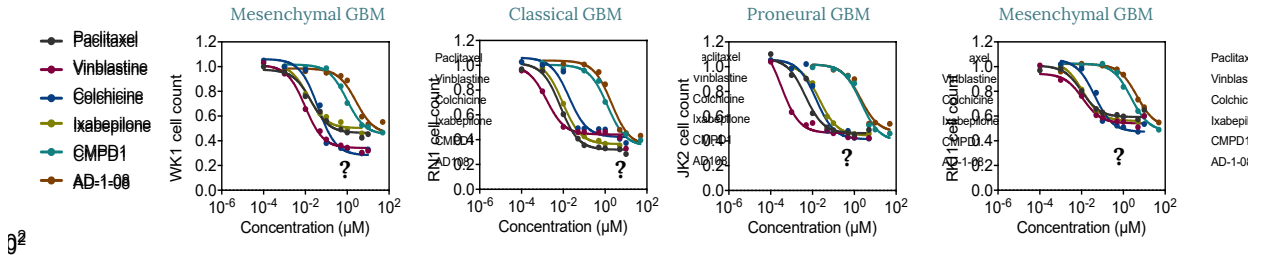
a) J Med Chem 2016, 59: 10030
b) ACS Chem Neurosci 2010, 1: 420



Microtubule-Targeting Agents & Glioblastoma



- MTAs considered *non-targeted* chemotherapeutics because microtubules expressed in all cells
- MTA efficacy is the same regardless of the MTA potency => problem is the target, not the drug
- Microtubules highly conserved in their 3D structures; but there is a significant diversity at the molecular level (tubulin code) => does tubulin code impact on MTA efficacy?



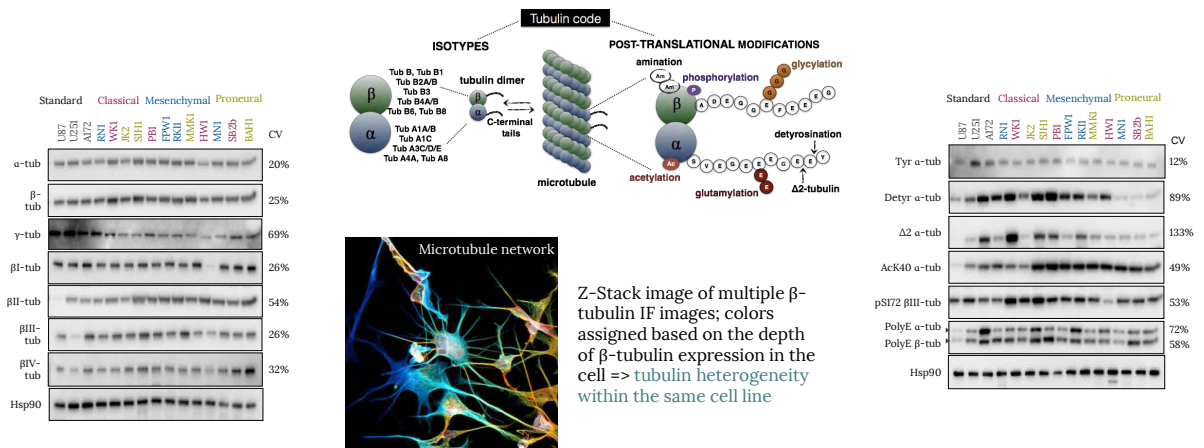
Glioblastoma (GBM) subtypes by TCGA (Cell 2013, 155: 462)
 Classical: EGFR amplification/mutation, *Ink4a*/ARF deletion Pro-neural: PDGFRA abnormalities, IDH1 and TP53 mutations
 Mesenchymal: cMET over-expression, NFI mutation/deletion Neural: highly differentiated phenotype

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Glioblastoma & Tubulin Code



- Tubulin code of serum-grown cells (A172, U251, U87) not representative of those found in clinically relevant glioblastoma stem cells
- 20% - 130% diversity in the tubulin code within glioblastoma cell lines

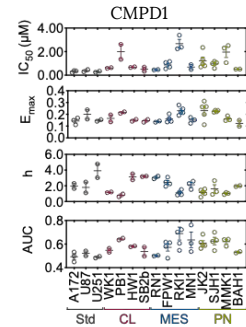
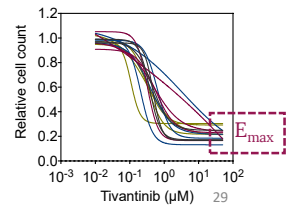
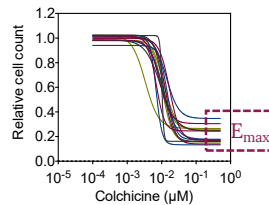
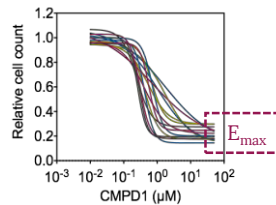
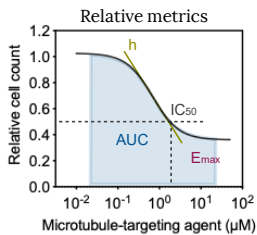


Z-Stack image of multiple β -tubulin IF images; colors assigned based on the depth of β -tubulin expression in the cell => tubulin heterogeneity within the same cell line

Microtubule-Targeting Agents & Glioblastoma



- Multiparametric analysis of dose-response curves for 6 orthogonal MTAs in 15 cell lines, 5 days viability assay
 - IC_{50} = potency
 - E_{max} = efficacy
 - h (Hill slope) = cell-to-cell variability
 - AUC = combination of IC_{50} and E_{max}
- MTA sensitivity profiles *unconvincing*
- Efficacy (E_{max}) did not fit the microscopic observations

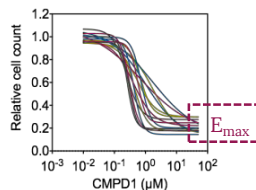
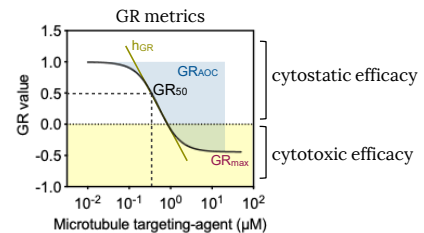
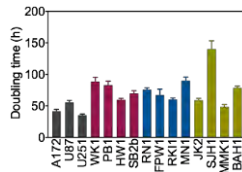
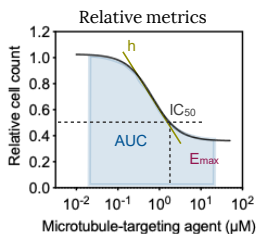


ACS Pharmacol Transl Sci 2019, 2: 402

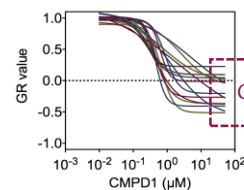
Rethinking cellular drug response



- Relative metrics confounded by the number of cell divisions taking place during viability assays
- Dependency of IC_{50} and E_{max} on division rates creates artefactual drug sensitivity (Nat Methods 2016, 13: 521)
- Growth rate (GR) corrected dose-response curves revealed significant differences in the maximum efficacy (GR_{max})



GRcalculator
Curr Protocols Chem Biol 2017, 9: 96
Curr Protocols Chem Biol 2017, 9: 55

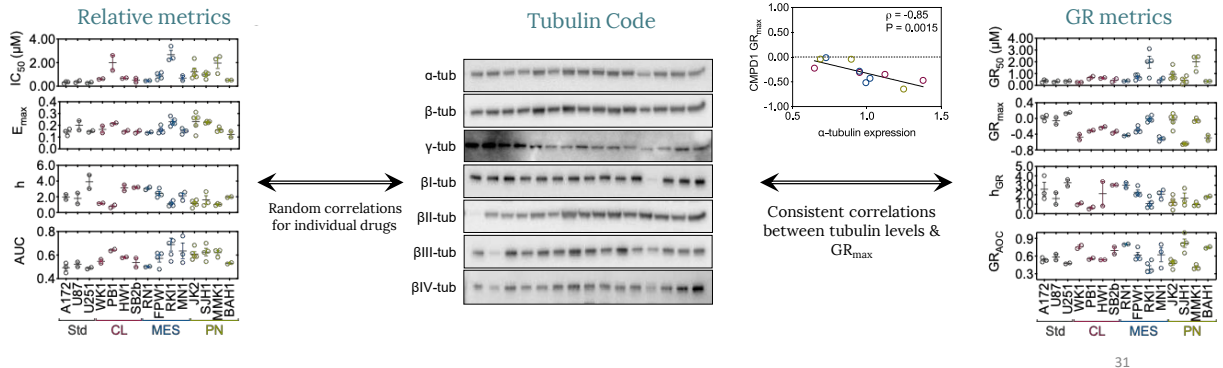


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Correlating Sensitivity with Tubulin Code



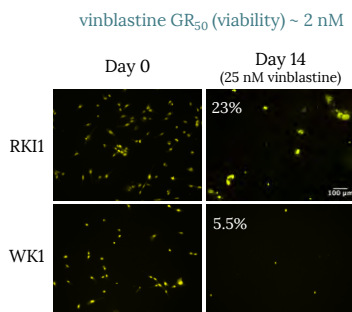
- Relative metrics vs tubulin code => random correlations
- GR metrics vs tubulin code => consistent correlations between tubulin levels & efficacy
- MTA efficacy independent of tubulin isotypes and post-translational modifications
- Cells expressing less α/β -tubulin are less sensitive to MTAs



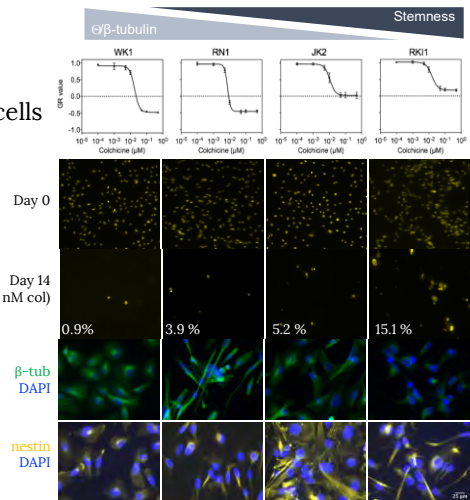
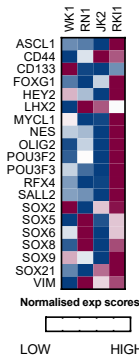
Validating the Correlations



- MTAs efficacy declines with decreasing levels of α - and β -tubulin
- Cells with less tubulin exhibit more stemness markers and survive long-term highly cytotoxic concentrations of MTAs
- Even the most potent and clinical MTAs generate surviving cells and even in sensitive cell lines



Stemness markers
(mRNASeq in Sci Rep 2019, 9: 4902)

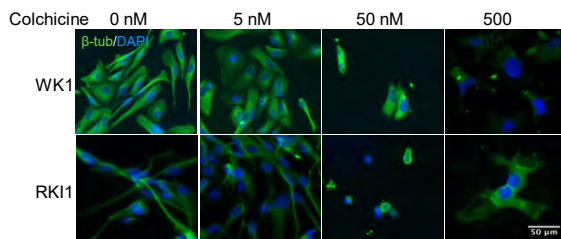


Target Engagement & Efflux Pumps

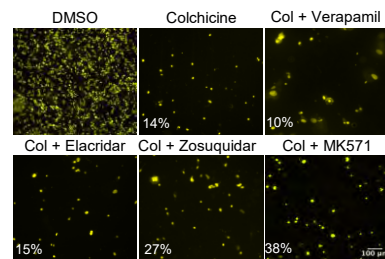


- Fractional killing could be attributed to insufficient target engagement and/or drug efflux
- Confirmed complete target engagement in all cells upon MTA treatment
- MTA efficacy independent of the expression and activity of drug efflux pumps

Target Engagement



Inhibiting Drug Efflux Pumps



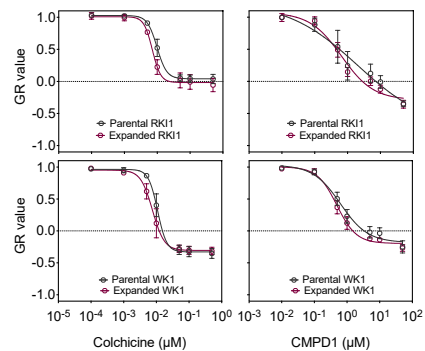
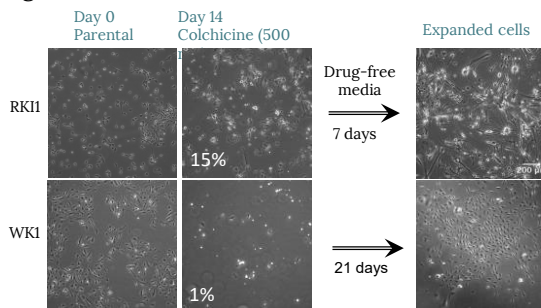
ACS Pharmacol Transl Sci 2019, 2: 402

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Characterization of Surviving Cells



- Surviving cells express dormancy markers: DEC2, N2RF1, p27; high p-p38/p-Erk ratio (analyzed by flow cytometry)
- Dormancy: a 'sleeping' period in the organism's life cycle when growth, development and activity are **temporarily** stopped
- Surviving cells resume proliferation in drug-free media
- Recovered cells show equal sensitivity to MTAs => excluding drug resistance => implicating drug tolerance



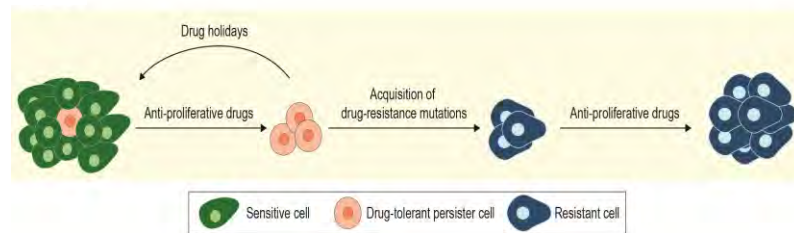
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Drug Tolerance vs Drug Resistance



- Drug Tolerance: ability of cells to survive (but not proliferate) in the presence of cytotoxic treatments, transient non-mutational phenotype
- Drug Resistance: ability of cells to proliferate in the presence of cytotoxic treatments, irreversible (mostly mutational) phenotype
- Drug-Tolerant Persister Cells: subpopulation of cancer cells able to survive the first exposure to cancer drugs
- Drug tolerance often driven by activation of dormancy mechanisms



Trends Pharmacol Sci 2019, 40: 128

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Audience Survey Question

ANSWER THE QUESTION ON BLUE SCREEN IN ONE MOMENT

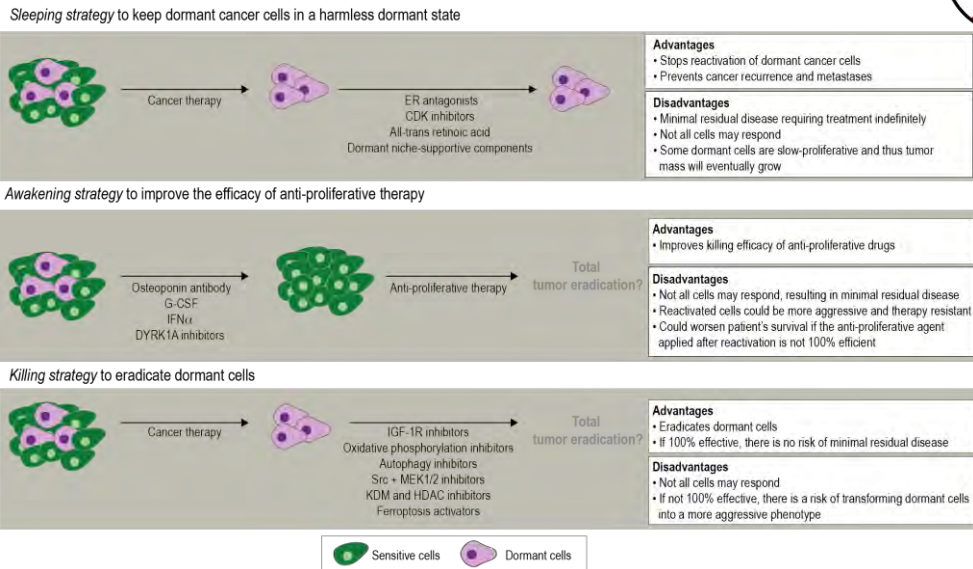


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Do you know from which research field originates the terminology “drug-tolerant persister cells” ?

- Neuroscience
- Microbiology
- Immunology
- None of the above

Targeting Cancer Cell Dormancy



Trends Pharmacol Sci 2019, 40: 128

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Summary



- Tubulin expression varies in cancer cells; MTAs follow the principal concept of pharmacology => more target = more efficacy => *MTA non-targeted chemotherapeutics??*
- Kinase inhibitors have non-kinase (off)-targets underlying/contributing to their anti-cancer efficacies => *think outside the box*
- Comprehensive drug-target validations must *never go out of style*
- Proliferation rates of cancer cells impact on drug efficacy => growth rate (GR) metrics are critical when comparing sensitivity of various cell lines
- To detect dormant cells => analyze the bottom of the dose-response curves
- Cancer is not purely a proliferative disease => dormant cancer cells detected in many cancers
- War on Cancer => War on **Sleeping** Cancer

Acknowledgements to all past and present members and collaborators of the Munoz Lab.



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The graphic features the title "PROJECT MANAGEMENT 101" in large blue letters on a grid background. Surrounding the title are various project management icons and terms: "Goals" (checkmark), "Planning" (calendar), "Risks" (warning triangle), "Cost" (dollar sign), "Problem Solving" (lightbulb), "Communication" (speech bubbles), "Control" (gears), and "Teamwork" (hands). The ACS logo and "ACS Professional Education" are also present. At the bottom, a play button icon is followed by the text "FREE Thursday, Mar. 5 at 2pm ET" and the "ACS Webinars" logo.

<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/acs-webinars/professional-development/project-management-101.html>

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ACS Pharmacology & Translational Science



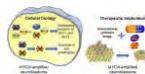
A grid of journal covers for "ACS Pharmacology & Translational Science". The covers feature various scientific illustrations: a globe with a person, a microscope, a cell, a brain, a molecular structure, a grid of brain scans, a heart, and a crab. To the right of the grid is a large graphic of a crab with the text "Oncology research".

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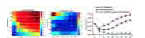


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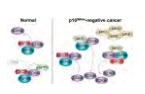
Targeting Functional Activity of AKT Has Efficacy against Aggressive Neuroblastoma

Marion Le Grand, Kathleen Kimpton, Christine C. Gana, Emanuele Valli, Jamie I. Fletcher, and Maria Kavallaris¹



Synergistic Inhibition of Kinase Pathways Overcomes Resistance of Colorectal Cancer Spheroids to Cyclic Targeted Therapies

Pradip Shaha Thakur,¹ Megha Gupta,¹ Ramita Joshi,¹ Samil Singh,² and Hossein Tavaza^{1,3}



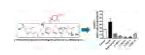
Stabilization of Cyclin-Dependent Kinase 4 by Methionyl-tRNA Synthetase in p16^{INK4a}-Negative Cancer

Nam Hoon Kwon,^{1,2} Jin Young Lee,^{1,2} Ye-lan Ryu,¹ Chanhoe Kim,¹ Jiwon Kong,¹ Seungwon Oh,¹ Beom Sik Kang,¹ Hye Won Ahn,¹ Sung Gwe Ahn,¹ Joon Jeong,¹ Ho Kyung Kim,¹ Jong Hyun Kim,¹ Dan Young Hae,¹ Min Chul Park,¹ Doyoun Kim,¹ Kyuho Takang,¹ Isaac Manole,¹ Yu-Ming Hong,¹ Sung Ill Jang,¹ Yoon Soo Chang,¹ Dong Ki Lee,¹ Youngsoo Kim,¹ Ming Wei Wang,¹ Rauppa,¹ and Sunghoon Kim^{1,2,3}



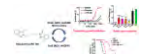
Molecular Signatures of Fusion Proteins in Cancer

Natasha S. Latysheva¹ and M. Madan Babar^{1,2}



Aglycone Polyether Nanchangmycin and Its Homologues Exhibit Apoptotic and Antiproliferative Activities against Cancer Stem Cells

Minghan Huang,¹ Bo Liu,¹ Ran Liu,¹ Jun Li,¹ Jilet Chen,¹ Fenglei Jiang,¹ Hong Dong,¹ Zain Dong,^{1,2} and Tiangang Liu^{1,2}



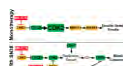
Kidney-Type Glutaminase Inhibitor Hexylselen Selectively Kills Cancer Cells via a Three-Pronged Mechanism

Jennifer Jin Ruan,¹ Yan Yu,¹ Wei Hou,¹ Zhao Chen,¹ Jimshang Fang,¹ Jingjing Zhang,¹ Muwei Ni,¹ Di Li,¹ Shiyong Lu,¹ Jingjing Rui,¹ Rui Wu,¹ Wei Zhang,¹ and Bentang Helen Ruan^{1,2}



Identification of Pirin as a Molecular Target of the CCG-1423/CCG-203971 Series of Antifibrotic and Antimetastatic Compounds

Erka M. Lisabeth,¹ Dylan Kahl,¹ Indumati Gopallawa,¹ Sarah E. Haynes,¹ Scott A. Mueck,¹ Phillip L. Campbell,¹ Thomas S. Dreheiner,¹ Doreth Khanna,¹ David A. Fox,¹ Xiangbin Jin,¹ Brent R. Martin,¹ Scott D. Larsen,^{1,2} and Richard R. Neisinger^{1,3}



Differential Sensitivity to CDK2 Inhibition Discriminates the Molecular Mechanisms of CHK1 Inhibitors as Monotherapy or in Combination with the Topoisomerase I Inhibitor SN38

Nicholas J. H. Warren,¹ Katelyn L. Donahue,¹ and Alan Eastman^{1,2}



The HPV Vaccine Story

Ian H. Frazer^{1,2}



Cathepsin B Dependent Cleavage Product of Serum Amyloid A1 Identifies Patients with Chemotherapy-Related Cardiotoxicity

Fangfang Zhang,^{1,2} Christopher J. Lyon,¹ Robert J. Walls,¹ Bo Ning,¹ Jia Fan,^{1,2} and Tony Y. Hu^{1,2,3}



Lower Tubulin Expression in Glioblastoma Stem Cells Attenuates Efficacy of Microtubule-Targeting Agents

Ramzi H. Alkawas,¹ Aradna Rucanaru,¹ Dinesh C. Indurthi,¹ Terrance G. Johns,¹ Brett W. Stringer,¹ Brian W. Day,¹ and Lenka Munoz^{1,2}



Advances on Tumor-Targeting Delivery of Cytotoxic Proteins

Almal M. Asarova,^{1,2} Zeyan Gu,¹ Kyoung Ah Min,¹ Meoeng Chol Shin,^{1,2} and Yongshuo Huang^{1,2,3}

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How to Detect and Target Dormant Cancer Cells Surviving Microtubule-Targeting Agents



Patrick Sexton

Professor of Pharmacology and National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Senior Principal Research Fellow, Monash University, and Editor-in-Chief, ACS Pharmacology & Translational Science



Lenka Munoz

Associate Professor, Faculty of Medicine and Health, The University of Sydney

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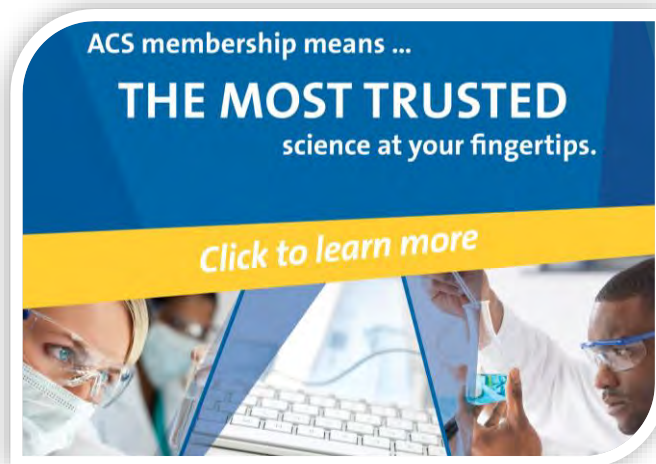
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